



# THE SEAFARER

January 2017—April 2017



The official newsletter  
of USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

## EASTERN PACIFIC PATROL



The Coast Guard cutter JAMES successfully interdicted a dozen drug-smuggling vessels during its 60-day inaugural patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. A total of 16 tons of cocaine was seized and 30 smugglers were stopped in their tracks by JAMES as well as other Coast Guard cutters operating in the area. "With this ship, we're capable of owning the night, and that's what we want to continue to do," Captain Fedor said. The wholesale value of the 16 tons of cocaine is an estimated value of \$420 million and a street value of over \$1.2 billion. "To look at those bales as just cocaine is short-sighted," he said. "When those smugglers are racing across the Caribbean or the Pacific, they're just not carrying cocaine. They're delivering violence, corruption and instability to a part of the world – the Western Hemisphere – that just can't absorb it." During this patrol, JAMES partnered with the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). This collaborative effort resulted in the first time Airborne Use of Force was employed to stop three smuggling vessels, over 40 nautical miles apart, within a two-hour window. One of JAMES' busts also included HITRON's 500th drug interdiction in their unit history. In addition to operational achievements, the crew of JAMES seized multiple opportunities to make lasting impressions with partner nations by participating in community service events as well as a formal reception with the Colombian Navy in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Cartagena, Colombia. The crew was extremely proud of such an accomplished first operational patrol. A tremendous amount of time and effort took place prior to departing from homeport and it certainly paid dividends throughout the patrol. This was the first of many successful operational patrols for JAMES and the crew will soon be ready to once again *own the night*.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<a href="#">Patrol Statistics</a>	2
<a href="#">Operations and Bulk Offload</a>	4
<a href="#">National Media Coverage</a>	5
<a href="#">Cartagena</a>	6
<a href="#">HITRON's 500th</a>	8
<a href="#">Panama</a>	9
<a href="#">Earning the Salt</a>	10
<a href="#">Captain's Corner</a>	11
<a href="#">XO's Comments</a>	12
<a href="#">Fair Winds and Following Seas</a>	13
<a href="#">Welcome Aboard!</a>	14



## PATROL STATISTICS

**TOTAL INTERDICTIONS**

**07 VESSELS**

**TOTAL DISRUPTIONS**

**05 VESSELS**

**TOTAL COCAINE SEIZED/DISRUPTED:**

**6,229KGS/ 1,950KGS**

**TOTAL SUSPECTED SMUGGLERS INTERDICTED:**

**22 PERSONNEL**

**NUMBER OF BOARDINGS THIS PATROL:**

**13 VESSELS**









## OPERATIONS AND BULK OFFLOAD

During its maiden voyage, JAMES' crew was responsible for the interdiction of 12 drug-smuggling vessels, detainment and subsequent arrest of 22 suspected drug smugglers and seizure of nine metric tons of cocaine ultimately bound for the United States.

In an unprecedented case, JAMES used its embarked helicopter to employ airborne use of force on three high-speed drug-smuggling vessels – over 40 miles apart – within a two hour window.

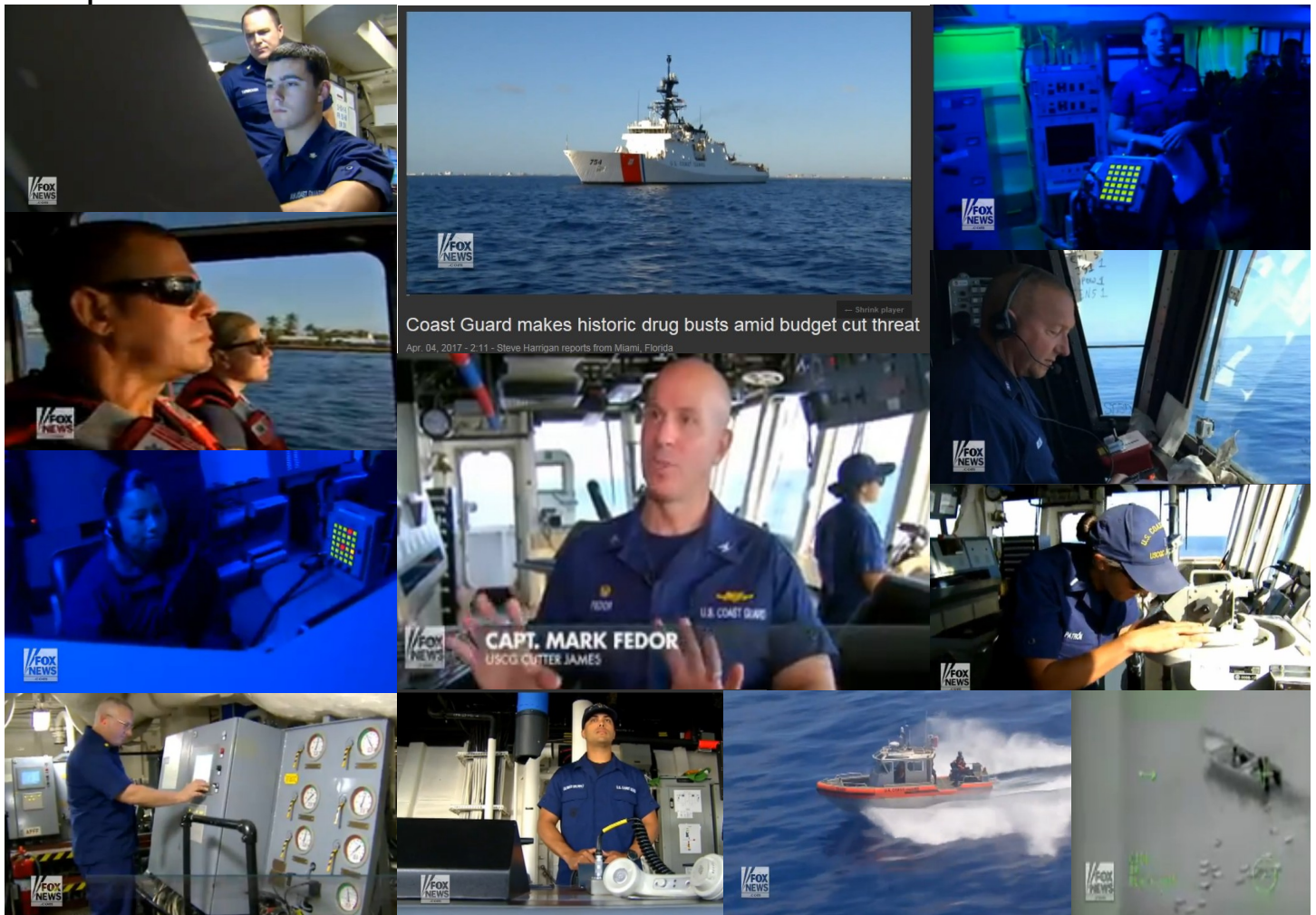
"JAMES' first operational patrol was incredible successfully and the culmination of the crew's hard work over the past two years to bring this ship to life. I couldn't be more proud than watching them leverage the full range of our capabilities to overcome a variety of challenges and complete our missions," said Captain Mark Fedor.

JAMES' crew offloaded 16 metric tons of cocaine at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This cocaine was seized by multiple Coast Guard units in international waters in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and has an astonishing wholesale value of more than \$466 million.





## NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE



During the transit to homeport, JAMES had the unique opportunity to host a national media crew from Fox News. The news crew embarked via the Long Range Interceptor (LRI) cutter boat and captured the daily operations of the best cutter in the fleet! From the Engineering Control Room, and Combat Information Center to the Pilothouse, the JAMES demonstrated what we do best while conducting small boat and helicopter operations. In addition to national coverage, JAMES was also featured in sixty-five separate outlets ranging from online articles to local media coverage. Our story reached approximately 103,660,746 views and a combined total of 211,124 impressions from Facebook and Twitter. JAMES is always proud to share our story and exhibit the hard work and dedication that goes into conducting operations. To view the extended clip from Fox News, visit:

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/5384961589001/?#sp=show-clips>



## CARTAGENA

While visiting Cartagena, Colombia, CGC JAMES had the opportunity to host an international reception onboard. A number of high ranking officials were in attendance to include VADM Schultz, Atlantic Area Commander, as well as members of the British, Netherlands, and Mexican Embassies. Members of the Mexican and Colombian Armed Forces were also present at the reception.

During this event, 14 eight-meter guardian type boats, with a value of four million dollars, were donated to the Marine Corps of the National Navy of Colombia.

The U.S. government provided these vessels so Colombian officials could improve their interdiction capabilities within their river systems to facilitate economic development.





## CENTRO COLOMBO AMERICANO DE CARTAGENA

The crew of JAMES as well as CGC VENTUROUS partnered with the U.S. Embassy in Colombia to mentor and teach the 40 students in English language learning activities at Centro Colombo Americano de Cartagena. During this time, JAMES members taught conversational skills and fostered day-to-day interactions. The program, implemented by the Embassy of the United States in Colombia in collaboration with the Colombo Americano Center of Cartagena, consists of teaching English courses to outstanding students in vulnerable populations. It was a fantastic experience for all those who participated and an event we will always remember.



For more information and video see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aWc0N9lqZU>

## COLOMBIAN CUISINE

JAMES' very own Culinary Specialists prepared a fantastic meal during the reception onboard the cutter in Cartagena, Colombia. The menu included:

**Shrimp Ceviche** - Chilled Citrus & Tabasco Marinated Shrimp & Mango served with Double Fried Plantains



**Arepa con Carne** - Handmade Corn Cake with Cheese topped with Slow Braised Latin Seasoned Beef, Avocado & Sweet Plantains

**Salmon Al Chimichuri** - Chipotle Rubbed Salmon with Coconut Rice & Lentils topped with Chimichurri & Corn Salsa

**Papa Rellena** - Mashed Potato Bites Stuffed with Ground Beef & Bacon, Battered & Fried topped with a Red Pepper Coulis

**Valrhona White Chocolate Caribbean Verrines** - Layered Banana Cake, White Chocolate Mousse Coated in a White Chocolate Ganache.





## HITRON's 500TH INTERDICTION

The Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) marked its 500th drug interdiction when a deployed crew stopped a drug-laden go-fast vessel at 1:30 a.m. in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, March 11.



This is a historic benchmark for the Coast Guard as HITRON has successfully interdicted 500 vessels transporting approximately 422,000 kilograms of cocaine and 27,000 kg of marijuana with a wholesale value of more than \$16.7 billion. HITRON was commissioned in 2000 with the specific mission to pursue and stop suspect go-fast vessels and halt the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S. with armed helicopters operating aboard Coast Guard cutters and land-based facilities in the southern area of responsibility. HITRON helicopters operate in known smuggling vectors and rely on expertly trained aircrews and precision marksmen to disable go-fast drug smuggling vessels if they refuse to comply with verbal and visual warnings for law enforcement boardings in accordance with international maritime law.



## PANAMA CANAL



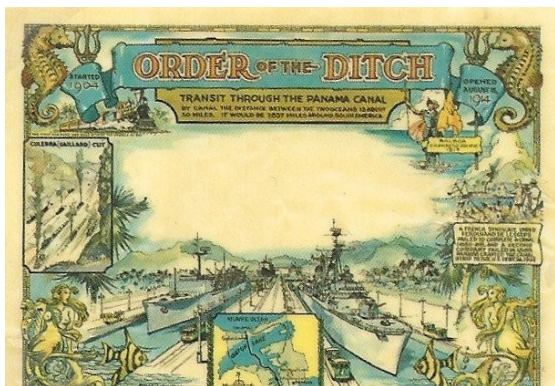
## PANAMA COMMUNITY SERVICE



A few of our members volunteered liberty time to partner with a local community outreach program Ministros de Una Vida Abundant (MUVA). In support of over 400 underprivileged Panamanian children, they contributed to the betterment of their safe spaces for after school activities that opens doors of opportunity to disadvantaged children including; culture, sports, additional education, vocational advising and training, and wholesome recreational activities. They completed myriad of cleanup projects within the MUVA sanctuary which consisted of organizing and cleaning office furniture, washing, rinsing and drying a 400 square foot deck, clearing the rooftop littered with rotting vegetation, and thoroughly renewing a 200 square foot dining facility and kitchen. These combined efforts saved the MUVA staff of two over 25 man hours of labor which could otherwise be used to instruct the youth of the local community. These altruistic endeavors enhanced the relationship between the United States Coast Guard and the US Embassy, and the city of Balboa.



## EARNING THE SALT



Since Commissioning on August 8th 2015, JAMES accomplished significant seagoing milestones. These milestones are presented with pride through nautical certificates. Most of them are variations on the shellback theme; they document, typically in salty language, passing certain geographic locations for the first time. Thus far, the crew of JAMES have earned the following:

**Plank Owner**  
Commissioning a Ship

**Shellback**  
Crossing the Equator

**Order of the Spanish Main**  
Cruising through the Caribbean

**Order of the Ditch**  
Transiting through the Panama Canal





## CAPTAIN'S CORNER



It is great to be back in Charleston after an incredibly successful, first operational deployment! In typical JAMES fashion, the crew did an amazing job preparing for the patrol, executing our high-risk law enforcement mission, and representing our Service in front of millions of viewers on national television. I couldn't be more proud of them.

Our primary mission was to interdict the flow of cocaine heading from South America towards the United States. Based on the nature of this smuggling activity, most of our operations occurred well after midnight so we had to live our mantra of "Own the Night" and we certainly did so. We interdicted seven smuggling vessels, disrupted five others, seized over six thousand kilograms of cocaine valued at over \$200 million dollars, and detained 22 smugglers who were brought to the United States for potential prosecution in our legal system. In an unprecedented operation,

we utilized Airborne Use of Force (AUF) to stop three separate smuggling vessels, spread over 40 nautical miles apart, within a two-hour window. In the maritime environment, that's PhD level "command and control" highlighting the JAMES' capabilities as well as the dedication and commitment of this crew.

At the end of the patrol, we combined all the cocaine we seized with interdictions from five other Coast Guard cutters and one Canadian warship for a combined total of 16 tons of cocaine valued at \$420 million dollars! That's nearly enough money to buy another National Security Cutter which is a tremendous return on investment for the American taxpayer. We offloaded all of this contraband to federal authorities in Fort Lauderdale, FL and conducted a press conference for both national and local media outlets. The amount of narcotics captured the media's attention which led to JAMES being featured in an exclusive story on FOX News documenting a day in the life of the "best cutter in the fleet"! You can see the full story on line.

All of this cocaine was captured over a two month period illustrating just how much contraband is heading towards the United States on any given day. Illicit smuggling has a devastating impact in the Central American nations to our south and their internal problems eventually manifest themselves on our borders in the form of crime, addiction and migrants fleeing those violent cities. As I said to the crew and the media, we weren't just stopping cocaine; we were preventing violence, corruption and instability from reaching our borders. Our mission is tremendously important to the health, security and prosperity of our nation so you should be proud of JAMES and the Coast Guard!

While JAMES was at the forefront of this national effort, I know our families and friends were making daily sacrifices back home. We could never do our mission without the full support of the broader JAMES family so thank you and please know that you own a piece of JAMES' success as well. Our Ombudsman, Mrs. Cayce LaCorte, is a vital cog in this support network so it will be sad to see her depart later this summer. She has been a major part of the ship's achievements so we will formally recognize her in the next few months and we'll also introduce our new Ombudsman. Thank you Cayce!

If you're ever in the area, please stop by and visit the ship. You are always welcome!



## XO's COMMENTS

The past three months have been amazing and exciting. After more than 2 two years of blood, sweat, and tears, JAMES and our exemplary crew casted off on our first-ever fully operational patrol. Our patrol was marked my myriad successes, including a high-profile international engagement in Cartagena, Colombia, as well as the interdiction of 12 drug-smuggling vessels and the seizure of nine tons of cocaine. At the conclusion of this landmark and record-setting patrol, the hard work and dedication of the crew was memorialized in a national-level media engagement with Fox News. Notably, this important media event demonstrated to the world what the National Security Cutter, particularly JAMES, is capable of accomplishing in the war on drugs and in combating transnational crime. In closing, I could not be more proud of our crew and their accomplishments; it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside them and to share in their monumental successes during this milestone and unforgettable patrol.



## COMMAND SENIOR CHIEF



## OMBUDSMAN'S OUTREACH

I encourage all the spouses to email me if the crew have not been receiving my emails and E-vites. If the crew have any questions, I will do my best to answer it or point the crew in the direction of someone who can.

The crew can email me at: [Caycelacorte@yahoo.com](mailto:Caycelacorte@yahoo.com).



# **FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS**

## **MEMBER**

## **REPORTING TO**

**EM1 JAMES WHITEHEAD**

**CGC RAYMOND EVANS**

**ET2 JUSTIN AARON**

**CGC KATHLEEN MOORE**

**CS3 BRANDON CEDENO**

**OS3 CONNER ACRI**





## WELCOME ABOARD!

### MEMBER

### REPORTING FROM

BM3 ERIK ANCIL

BM A SCHOOL

SN CALVENTE-GALINDEZ

TRACEN CAPE MAY

SR KRISTEN MAGALIS

TRACEN CAPE MAY

SR DALTON ALEXANDER

TRACEN CAPE MAY



# FOLLOW CGC JAMES (WMSL 754)!



Find us on:  
**facebook®**





## USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

1050 Register St.  
Charleston, SC 29405

843-308-9662

Jennifer.M.Patron@uscg.mil  
Jay.M.Power@uscg.mil

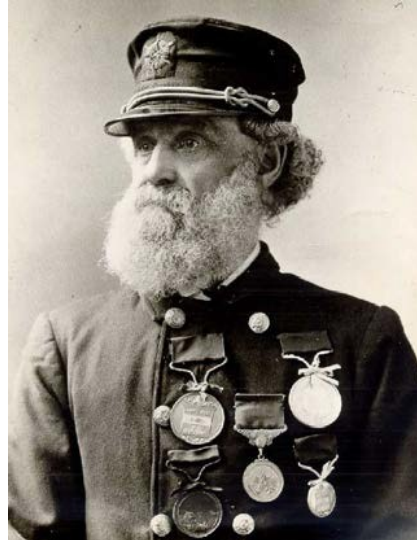


## History of Joshua James

Joshua James was one of the most celebrated lifesavers in the world, credited with saving hundreds of lives from the age of 15 when he first joined the Massachusetts Humane Society until his death at the age of 75 while on duty with the U.S. Life-Saving Service.

He was honored with the highest medals of the Humane Society, the United States, and many other organizations.

His father, mother, brother, wife, and son were also heroic lifesavers.



A special silver medal was struck for Joshua by the Humane Society in 1886, for "brave and faithful service of more than 40 years." The report said, "During this time he assisted in saving over 100 lives."

The most famous rescue of his career, for which he received the Humane Society's gold medal, as well as the Gold Life-Saving Medal from the United States Government, took place between the 25th and 26th of November, 1888.

During that period he and his men saved the lives of 29 persons from five vessels.

More information on Joshua James can be found at  
[http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua\\_James.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James.asp)  
[http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua\\_James\\_Interview.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James_Interview.asp)



*On behalf of the entire crew of the CGC JAMES, we would like to bestow our sincere appreciation on the friends and family who support our mission. Whether underway or inport, our families and friends are a constant motivator and our **brave and faithful service** is for the crew.*